

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation  
Application of: Jay Qin et al Examiner: Unknown  
Serial No. : 09/495,390 Group Art Unit: 3739  
Filed : January 31, 2000  
For : Method for Treating a Sphincter

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

***The Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement that accompanies this Amendment. The Statement makes of record in this continuation application the documents that are of record in the parent application.***

Please amend the application prior to the first Office Action and calculation of filing fee as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the Related Application paragraph beginning on Page 1, Line 5 as follows in clean form (the amended paragraph is also presented attached in marked-up form):

Continuation Application of  
Serial No. 09/495,390  
Preliminary Amendment

**Clean Version of Amended Paragraph**

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/495,390, filed January 31, 2000, and entitled "Systems and Methods for Monitoring and Controlling Use of Medical Devices," which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/026,296, filed February 19, 1998, and entitled "Method for Treating a Sphincter" (now U.S. Patent No. 6,009,877) and a continuation-in-part of co-pending provisional United States Patent Application Serial Number 60/152,749, filed September 8, 1999 and entitled "Systems and Methods for Monitoring and Controlling Use of Medical Devices."

Continuation Application of  
Serial No. 09/495,390  
Preliminary Amendment

**Marked-Up Version of Amended Paragraph**

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/495,390, filed January 31, 2000, and entitled "Systems and Methods for Monitoring and Controlling Use of Medical Devices," which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/026,296, filed February 19, 1998, and entitled "Method for Treating a Sphincter" (now U.S. Patent No. 6,009,877)[. This application is also] and a continuation-in-part of co-pending provisional United States Patent Application Serial Number 60/152,749, filed September 8, 1999 and entitled "Systems and Methods for Monitoring and Controlling Use of Medical Devices."